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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Plan for a Change in Property Concepts in the Russian Zone

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1. A plan for the change of basic property concepts is now being developed by the Saxon Ministry of Justice upon order of the Deutsche Wirtschaftskommission (DWK) in Berlin. The plan, which was opposed by the Central Administration for Justice, will serve in its final form as a model for the other states of the Russian Zone.
2. The chief changes envisaged by the plan are the following:
 - a. In the future, the concept of private property will be eliminated and replaced by the concept of people's property (Volkseigentum).
 - b. Except for a very small number of personal possessions, in the form of clothing, furniture, and objects of everyday use, all property is to become people's property.
 - c. The state will no longer confer rights of ownership, but rather privileges of use. It will determine who is justifiably entitled to the right to use the property concerned and will confer this right, but will retain the power to withdraw it.
 - d. The privilege of using movable and immovable property, pieces of ground, etc., may be given individuals. The privilege of using means of production, machinery, pieces of land suitable for agriculture, patents, etc., may be conferred only upon groups of people or communities, not upon individuals.

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3. The plan [redacted] will be given to the DWK in Berlin by Dresden officials when it is completed. It is assumed by these officials that it will not be put into effect before an eastern zonal government has been formed.

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